each of the last 24 months; and

(e) the details of programmes initiated and achievements made so far towards development of tourism in the NE through this Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Tourist Offices of Govt. of India are already functioning from 4 different locations in the North East, *Viz.*, Guwahati, Naharlagun, Imphal and Shillong since 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1982, respectively.

(b) The objective of the Govt. of India Tourist Offices in North East and elsewhere is to promote tourism. The Govt. of India Regional Tourist Office in Guwahati is located at GL Publication Complex, G.S. Road, Ulubari, Guwahati-781 007 Assam.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Regional Director is functioning from the Guwahati Office w.e. 13.7.1999.

(e) The newly created Regional Office has organised/initiated tourism related activities in order to develop tourism in the North East such as Organisation of Press Conference, coordination with members of the Classification Committee for Inspection and Classification of Hotels, imparting guidance to the Association of Tour Operators, sponsoring the visit of Travel writers/Journalists/ Tour Operators. Participation in fares and marts etc. These efforts of this office have helped in evoking an awareness about North East in general and promotion of tourism to North East.

Development of Tourism in Gujarat

198. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of Government for introducing more tourist centres in the State particularly in the backward areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism have prioritised 36 projects amounting to Rs. 952.00 lakhs for the year 1999-2000 in consultation with the State Govt. for development of Tourism in Gujarat.

The State Government has proposed to Ministry of Tourism for declaration of following circuits and destinations in Gujarat:

(i) The Temple Circuit:

Ahmedabad-Rajkot-Dwarka-Porbandar-Somnath-Girnar-Palitana-Ahmedabad.

(ii) The Heritage Circuit:

Ahmedabad-Modhera-Patan-Ambaji-Mt. Abu

(iii) Destinations:

(a) Kutch District
(b) Dangs-Saputara Hill Station

The Ministry of Tourism has agreed in principle for introduction of new tourist circuits/destinations for Gujarat.

Development of Tourism in Assam

199. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism infrastructure and training projects sanctioned and implemented in Assam during Eighth Plan and, their stage of execution and outcome so far;

(b) the details of new projects for implementation in Ninth Plan, project-wise earmarked amount already allocated and utilised during first two years of Ninth Plan;

(c) the impact of those projects in increasing domestic and foreign tourists with data to substantiate thereof;

(d) the steps contemplated and incentives provided to attract private investment; and